

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:PAW

APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY

H:ASWIFT (INFO)

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P 120205Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN RIGHTS  
HEARINGS

1. ON APRIL 5 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
REPRESENTATIVE LONG HELD HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
NICARAGUA AND PHILIPPINES. FOR PHILIPPINE PORTION WIT-  
NESSES WERE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY AND THREE  
REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE,  
WILLIAM GOODFELLOW, JAMES DREW, AND SEVERINA RIVERA  
(MRS. DREW).

2. OAKLEY SUBMITTED OPENING STATEMENT (COPY POUCHED TO  
EMBASSY) AND THEN RESPONDED TO SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS.  
SIMILAR PROCEDURE SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED WITH FRIENDS OF  
FILIPINO PEOPLE WITNESSES. HIGHLIGHTS OF DIALOGUE WERE  
AS FOLLOWS:

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3. IN REPLY TO QUERIES, OAKLEY ADMITTED EXISTENCE OF  
TORTURE BUT STATED BELIEF THAT EFFORTS OF AMNESTY INTER-  
NATIONAL AND OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS AND QUIET DIPLOMACY  
BY USG HAVE RESULTED IN GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION.  
HE NOTED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN PHILIP-  
PINES TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF

INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT GENERALLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, ALTHOUGH SITUATION OBVIOUSLY NOT SATISFACTORY. DESPITE CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, USG DESIRES TO MAINTAIN U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND THE EXISTING MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS REQUESTED LEVELS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS CONSISTENT WITH THESE INTERESTS AND U.S. DESIRE TO IMPROVE WELL BEING OF FILIPINO PEOPLE. LONG ASKED FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSION SUBSTANTIATING DEPARTMENT VIEW THAT OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES IS IMPROVING.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ABOUT TYPE OF MILITARY TRAINING PROVIDED BY USG, WHETHER IT IS IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH LATER PRACTICE OF TORTURE BY TRAINEES, AND WHETHER IT IS TAILORED TO EXTERNAL DEFENSE OR INTERNAL INSURGENCY, OAKLEY PROMISED FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT USG TRAINING IS ESSENTIALLY FOR FIELD GRADE OFFICERS WHILE REPORTS OF TORTURE SHOW PATTERN OF INCIDENTS AT LOWEST LEVELS IN FIELD AND NOT AT COMMAND LEVEL WHERE GOP POLICY AGAINST TORTURE APPEARS TO BE OBEYED.

5. REMAINDER OF HEARING WAS DEVOTED TO STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BY DREW AND SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONING OF HIM AND COLLEAGUES. STATEMENT WAS ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, ALLEGING THAT GOP IS CONSISTENT GROSS VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT PHILIPPINE MILITARY BASES ARE OF NO VITAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO USG AND SERVE TO CORRUPT TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES, AND THAT U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO GOP SERVE MERELY TO PROP UP MARCOS REGIME AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED. ONLY NEW ELEMENT WAS ASSERTION THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD ANNOUNCED THAT "WHATSOEVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AID WOULD NOT BE CUT OFF BECAUSE OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS". OAKLEY CHALLENGED ACCURACY OF THIS QUOTATION AND WE ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO SECURE RECORD OF WHAT SECRETARY ACTUALLY SAID.

6. DURING DIALOGUE, CHAIRMAN LONG INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT PHILIPPINES ARE STILL IMPORTANT TO U.S., PARTICULARLY FOR MILITARY REASONS, AND THAT ONLY MILITARY AND POLITICAL EXPERTS CAN DECIDE WHETHER MILITARY BASES SHOULD BE RELINQUISHED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, FFP WITNESSES CHARACTERIZED GOP AS RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENT, SHUNNED BY THIRD WORLD GOVERNMENTS AND UNLIKELY TO RE-

CEIVE SUBSTANTIAL AID FROM COMMUNIST REGIMES. WHEN LONG  
ASKED IF CUT OF 40 PER CENT IN ECONOMIC AID WOULD CAUSE  
GOP TO THROW U.S. OUT OF MILITARY BASES, GOODFELLOW SAID  
GOP PROBABLY BLUFFING. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT GOP  
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN U.S., RIVERA STATED MARCOS  
EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND THEREFORE  
PHILIPPINE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN U.S. NOT NEARLY AS  
BLATANT AS KOREAN, CHILEAN, OR IRANIAN EFFORTS. SUB-  
COMMITTEE DID NOT PURSUE THIS TOPIC.

VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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